

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02839 200843Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
HA-05 /069 W  
-----097287 210537Z /64

R 191535Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 783  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2839

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, TS  
SUBJECT: AHMED MESTIRI RETURNS TO TUNISIA

1. SOCIAL-DEMOCRAT MOVEMENT LEADER AHMED MESTIRI RETURNED TO TUNIS SATURDAY, APRIL 15, AFTER TWO-MONTH TRIP ABROAD DURING WHICH HE VISITED UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, BELGIUM, AUSTRIA, MOROCCO, SAUDI ARABIA, AND ALGERIA.

2. ON MONDAY, APRIL 17, MESTIRI APPEARED BEFORE JUDGE OF TUNIS CIVIL COURT IN RESPONSE TO SUMMONS ISSUED FOLLOWING MESTIRI'S MARCH 13 PRESS CONFERENCE IN LONDON. OBJECT OF INQUIRY WAS TO DETERMINE IF CHARGES SHOULD BE BROUGHT AGAINST MESTIRI FOR "DEFAMATION OF REGIME AND PROPAGATION OF FALSE INFORMATION." AUDIENCE LASTED SOME 90 MINUTES IN PRESENCE OF NUMEROUS ATTORNEYS WHO ACCOMPANIED MESTIRI.

3. ACCORDING TO ATTORNEY CLOSE TO MESTIRI, SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC LEADER DENIED ANY GUILT OF ABOVE CHARGES. REPORTEDLY HE SAID HE HAD RETURNED TO TUNISIA BECAUSE OF HIS RESPECT FOR TUNISIAN COURTS WHICH HAD ORDERED HIS APPEARANCE SPECIFICALLY ON APRIL 17. AT THE SAME TIME HE CRITICIZED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 02839 200843Z

DOMESTIC POLICY OF TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT AS BEING DEPLORABLE. WE UNDERSTAND HE ALSO TOLD JUDGE THAT HE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE HIS TRAVELS AND THAT HE PLANNED TO VISIT LIBYA AND SENEGAL IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

4. SHORT NEWS ITEM ON MESTIRI'S COURT APPEARANCE WAS PRINTED IN INDEPENDENT TUNISIAN DAILY LE TEMPS ONLY.

SOCIAL-DEMOCRAT WEEKLY ER-RAI WILL NO DOUBT CARRY  
FULLER ACCOUNT IN NEXT ISSUE. LAST WEEK'S ER-RAI CARRIED  
STORY ON MESTIRI'S TRIP WHICH WAS ALSO MENTIONED IN LEAD  
EDITORIAL EXPRESSION "THANKS" TO PRIME MINISTER FOR HAVING  
DEVOTED SO MUCH OF HIS APRIL 7 SPEECH BEFORE NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY TO SOCIAL-DEMOCRATS.  
MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LEADERS, COURT PROCEEDINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TUNIS02839  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780170-0655  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TUNIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780438/aaaabfst.tel  
**Line Count:** 69  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 193d01ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2910228  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AHMED MESTIRI RETURNS TO TUNISIA  
**TAGS:** PGOV, SHUM, OTRA, TS, (MESTIRI, AHMED)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/193d01ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014